

Message Text

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EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

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NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 10,
1976:

Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT EXTENDED, OR RATHER "AUGMENTED"
THE PROPOSED AID AGREEMENT TO ISRAEL TO INCLUDE PRORATED
MONEY FOR THAT TRANSITIONAL QUARTER BETWEEN JULY AND THE
END OF SEPTEMBER?

A. ON THE QUESTION OF THE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER, THE
ADMINISTRATION IS PRESENTLY REVIEWING ITS POSITION OF THE
IMPACT OF THE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER--WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, IS
THE PERIOD JULY 1ST THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH, WHEN THE NEW
FISCAL YEAR BEGINS -- ON THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE--
THE IMPACT OF THE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER ON THE SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PACKAGE -- INCLUDING THAT PART OF THE PACKAGE
THAT RELATES TO THE MIDDLE EAST. NOW WHEN THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH HAS COMPLETED ITS REVIEW, IT WILL BE GETTING IN
TOUCH WITH THE CONGRESS.

Q. WELL, LET ME ASK MORE SPECIFICALLY, THEN: ACCORDING
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TO ONE REPORT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN A TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR HUMPHREY SAID THAT THE STATE
DEPARTMENT WAS ADDING THAT MONEY FOR ISRAEL.

A. FIRST, IT IS TRUE THAT SENATOR HUMPHREY DID TELEPHONE
THE SECRETARY ON THIS QUESTION, AND THEY DISCUSSED
SEVERAL POSSIBLE TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS. BUT THE

ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF ITS POSITION ON THE IMPACT OF THE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER.

Q. WELL, SPECIFICALLY IN THE BILL, AS REPORTED OUT BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, IT SAYS THAT THE TRANSITIONAL QUOTA SHALL BE PRORATED ON THE BASIS OF THE BILL.

A. YES.

Q. AND IT WAS STATED IN THE COMMITTEE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION, THROUGH SECRETARY KISSINGER, HAD AGREED TO THIS PROVISION. ARE YOU SAYING, NOW, THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOW CHANGED ITS MIND?

A. I AM NOT ACCEPTING THE PREMISE --

Q. WELL, TELL ME, WHAT IS THE PREMISE?

A. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT ON THE IMPACT OF THE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER, THE ADMINISTRATION IS REVIEWING ITS POSITION AND IT HASN'T COMPLETED THAT REVIEW AS YET. AND WHEN IT DOES, IT WILL BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE CONGRESS.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE PULLING BACK FROM A POSITION THAT WAS AGREED TO?

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS EVER ANNOUNCED THE POSITION THAT YOU ARE DESCRIBING.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT SENATOR HUMPHREY MISREPRESENTED UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY KISSINGER PUBLICLY?

A. NO. WHAT I AM SAYING IS WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION POSITION IS; AND I AM SAYING THAT SENATOR HUMPHREY HAD TELEPHONED THE SECRETARY ABOUT THIS QUESTION AND THAT THEY DISCUSSED SEVERAL POSSIBLE TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM. BUT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS REVIEW.

Q. WHEN THAT TELEPHONE CALL TOOK PLACE, DID THE SECRETARY GIVE ANY POSITION, EITHER FOR HIMSELF OR FOR THE ADMINISTRATION?

A. ALL I CAN SAY IS WHAT MY RESPONSE WAS TO JIM'S QUESTION -- AND THAT IS ALL I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF

ABOUT THAT CONVERSATION.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY IT IS "REVIEWING" THAT IMPLIES THAT IT HAD A POSITION TO BEGIN WITH, DOESN'T IT?

A. THERE WAS AN IMPLIED POSITION WHEN THE AID PACKAGE FIRST WENT UP. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. AND WHAT WAS THE POSITION REGARDING THE --

A. -- AND THEN THE QUESTION WAS RAISED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD; AND THAT IS THE QUESTION THAT IS BEING CONSIDERED.

Q. WHO RAISED THE QUESTION?

A. AT LEAST ONE PERSON -- SENATOR HUMPHREY -- RAISED IT IN HIS TELEPHONE CALL WITH THE SECRETARY.

Q. AND OTHER THAN THAT?

A. YOU KNOW THERE ARE A LOT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE CONGRESS, AS WELL AS BY OUR OWN CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE.

Q. BUT IT CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE ADMINISTRATION?
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A. I CANNOT SAY THAT CATEGORICALLY.

Q. ARE WE TALKING ONLY ABOUT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL? OR ARE WE TALKING ABOUT AUGMENTING IT?

A. THAT IS NOT WHAT I SAID.

Q. -- THE WHOLE PROGRAM BY ONE QUARTER.

A. NO, WE ARE DISCUSSING ITS WHOLE POSITION ON THE IMPACT OF THE WHOLE TRANSITIONAL QUARTER -- ACROSS THE BOARD, INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EAST -- THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. I WANT TO ASK YOU A SPECIFIC QUESTION THAT WE NEED

AN ANSWER TO: DID THE SECRETARY OF STATE MISSTATE THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION? OR HAS THE ADMINISTRATION CHANGED ITS POSITION SINCE THAT TELEPHONE CALL? BECAUSE THERE IS A RECORD IN THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY IN THAT "MARKUP SESSION" I AM TOLD -- I WAS NOT THERE -- IN

WHICH SENATOR HUMPHREY SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION
HAD SUPPORTED THE CASE AMENDMENT. THIS IS OF MAJOR
INTEREST TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES.

A. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK INTO THAT POINT.

Q. HAVE YOU ANYTHING ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT, NO.

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